IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-20, and add claims 21-22 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~for~~ comprising:

charging of data reaching a network element of a communication network during a data session, the data session comprising a plurality of data flows, with each data flow being distinguishable by a set of flow parameters, the ~~method~~ charging comprising ~~the steps of:~~

enforcing a charging policy at the network element to be applied to said data, wherein said charging policy defines charging rules per flow~~;~~.

observing said data reaching said network element and detecting at least one flow of data~~; and~~.

matching said detected flow of data to an enforced charging policy, and applying said ~~matching~~ enforced charging policy to said data flow, thereby generating charging information.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:~~a step of~~

forwarding said generated charging information to a charging system of the communication network.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the enforcing is performed upon start-up of the network element.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the enforcing is performed upon activation of the data session.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the enforcing is performed dynamically during the a life-time of the data session.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein further comprising:

initializing data volume counters upon enforcing said charging policy, data volume counters and/or time counters are initialized.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said data flows are Internet Protocol (IP) based packet data flows, and said flow parameters comprise at least one of an IP header field, a transport header field, and an application level information.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said charging policy comprises

at least one flow parameter, and

at least one of a charging/accounting type, an accounting event trigger, a charging metrics, and a tariffing indication.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~for~~ supplying a network element with a charging policy to be enforced at said

network element for charging of data reaching said network element of a communication

network during a data session, the ~~method~~ supplying comprising ~~the step of:~~

- creating a plurality of charging policies,

    each charging policy of the charging policies comprising

        at least one flow parameter, and

        at least one of a charging/accounting type, an accounting event

        trigger, a charging metrics, and a tariffing indication,

- selecting a charging policy based on offered services and subscriber information,

and

- distributing said selected charging policy to at least one network element.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~a~~ said charging policy

    is selected for a type of ~~a~~ said network element.

11. (Currently Amended) A device ~~for charging of data reaching a network element of a~~

~~communication network during a data session,~~

    ~~the data session comprising a plurality of data flows,~~

        ~~with each flow being distinguishable by a set of flow parameters,~~

~~the system~~ comprising:

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an enforcing unit ~~means adapted~~ configured to enforce a charging policy at ~~the~~ a

network element to be applied to ~~said~~ data, wherein said charging policy defines charging

rules per data flow;

an observation unit ~~means~~ configured ~~adapted~~ to observe said data reaching said

network element and ~~detecting~~ detect at least one flow of data; ~~and~~

a matching ~~means~~ unit configured ~~adapted~~ to match said detected flow of data to

an enforced charging policy~~,~~;

an application ~~means~~ unit configured ~~adapted~~ to apply said ~~matching~~ enforced

charging policy to said flow~~;~~ and

a generation ~~means~~ unit, responsive to said application ~~means~~ unit, configured

~~adapted~~ to generate charging information,

wherein the device is configured to charge data reaching the network element of a

communication network during a data session, the data session comprising a plurality of

data flows, with each data flow of the plurality of data flows being distinguishable by a

set of flow parameters.

12. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, further comprising:

a forwarding ~~means~~ unit configured ~~adapted~~ to forward said generated charging

information to a charging system of the communication network.

13. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein said enforcing ~~means~~ unit is configured to be~~are~~ responsive to a start-up of the network element to perform the enforcing.

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein said enforcing ~~means~~ unit is configured to be~~are~~ responsive to activation of the data session to perform the enforcing.

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, wherein said enforcing ~~means~~ unit is~~are~~ further configured to dynamically ~~performing~~ perform the enforcing during ~~the~~ a life-time of the data session.

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, further comprising:

        an initialization ~~means~~ unit configured ~~adapted~~ to initialize data volume counters and/or time counters responsive to enforcing said charging policy.

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein said data flows are Internet Protocol (IP) based packet data flows, and said flow parameters comprise at least one of an IP header field, a transport header field, and an application level information.

18. (Original) A device according to claim 11, wherein said charging policy comprises

at least one flow parameter, and

at least one of a charging/accounting type, an accounting event trigger, a

charging metrics, and a tariffing indication.

19. (Currently Amended) A device ~~for supplying a network element with a charging~~

~~policy to be enforced at said network element for charging of data reaching said network~~

~~element of a communication network during a data session,~~

the ~~device~~ comprising:

- a creation ~~means~~unit ~~adapted~~configured to create a plurality of charging policies,

each charging policy of the charging policies comprising

at least one flow parameter, and

at least one of a charging/accounting type, an accounting event trigger, a

charging metrics, and a tariffing indication~~,~~;

- a selection ~~means~~unit configured ~~adapted~~to select a charging policy based on

offered services and subscriber information~~,~~; and

- a distribution ~~means~~unit configured ~~adapted~~to distribute said selected charging

policy to at least one network element,

wherein the device is configured to supply the at least one network element with

the charging policy to be enforced at said network element for charging of data reaching

said network element of a communication network during a data session.

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20. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 19, wherein ~~a~~ said charging policy is selected for a type of ~~a~~ said network element.

21. (New) A device comprising:

enforcing means configured to enforce a charging policy at the network element to be applied to data, wherein said charging policy defines charging rules per data flow;

observation means configured to observe said data reaching said network element and detect at least one flow of data;

matching means configured to match said detected flow of data to an enforced charging policy;

application means configured to apply said enforced charging policy to said flow; and

generation means, responsive to said application means, configured to generate charging information.

22. (New) A device comprising:

creation means configured to create a plurality of charging policies, each comprising

at least one flow parameter, and

at least one of a charging/accounting type, an accounting event trigger, a charging metrics, and a tariffing indication;

selection means configured to select a charging policy based on offered services and subscriber information; and

distribution means configured to distribute said selected charging policy to at least one network element.